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Foothill Dragon Press

Features Writer



As a Features writer, I write articles on issues that affect students, problems that students face and profile on those who have a certain talent or has a quirky hobby.

Best Works of 2014



[Inside the world of social networking](#)

It was very interesting interviewing students for this article because I heard both the positive and negative perspectives towards social media. Some students said that it was pointless to live life through a bright screen and others appreciated social media for its efficiency of connecting with people all over the world. I was really excited to write this article and it was a great experience hearing different sides of everyone's perspective. The students that I interviewed were extremely informative about social networking and it was interesting hearing stories of their own experience with social media.

Initiative

[Profiles on students who had leukemia](#)

Finding out about the three students who had leukemia when they were younger was a bit of an accident. I was having a conversation with my friend and some how, she started talking about how one of the people we knew had leukemia when they were young. When I heard about that, I knew I had to write a profile on the student. After finishing the article, I was told that two other students that were in my class also had leukemia/issues with white blood cells. I could have decided to just turn in the one article on just one person, but instead, I decided to interview two more people and add them to my article. I knew I couldn't just ignore the information. I knew I had to write about it.

[Religious Tolerance article](#)

I wrote this article with Veronica Mellring and when my editor first suggested this idea to our section, she said the article would need two writers, so I volunteered to be one of the writers. I was really nervous about writing this article because it was on a sensitive topic and I'm not a religious person. I didn't want to accidentally offend anyone. Me and Veronica were careful about writing the article and how it was worded. It was challenging for me because I didn't have a religious background and I didn't know how to address the issue. However, at the end of the day when it was published, a lot of my friends told me that Veronica and I did a great job writing it. I'm proud of this article because we managed to write a good article on a sensitive topic.

Skills

Interviewing (Beginner)

<1 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

Before joining journalism, I was very shy around people. When I found out that I was accepted into the Foothill Dragon Press, I was nervous about interviewing other people. I wasn't sure how to approach students and ask if I could interview them. However, after a few interviews I gained more and more confidence and now, I'm much more comfortable going up to students and getting quotes. I learned to communicate well with others and making sure that I'm not making the student feel uncomfortable.



Writing articles (Beginner)

<1 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

Writing articles in AP style is very different from how I was used to writing. When I first started out, I was uncomfortable about writing in short paragraphs instead of long, body paragraphs. However, after writing a few articles, I became used to it. Now, it feels odd to write essays in long and densely filled paragraphs. My writing has definitely improved since I've joined journalism and I'm very proud of that.



Meeting deadlines

(Intermediate)

<1 Years Experience, (Currently in use)

One of my main concerns when I first started journalism was meeting my deadlines. I would be terrified of accidentally missing deadlines because of other homework that I was busy finishing. However, I soon found out that meeting my deadlines was actually pretty easy. I never missed a deadline because I learned to stop procrastinating and start interviewing and writing articles as soon as it's assigned. My



two week deadlines are always easy to meet and I never really have to worry about missing one because I'm always on top of it.

Character Traits

Loyalty

To me, being part of a team means that you have to be loyal. You have to be loyal to your team and to what you do. I never skipped or missed a deadline because that would be unfair to the staff and to the overall organization. Why should the organization suffer just because I got lazy and decided to not meet a deadline or to not perform to my highest potential? Loyalty doesn't just mean to stick with your staff through thick and thin, it also means to do your part and do it right. To not slack off and throw together an article just to get an 'A' in the class. For me, being in journalism isn't just about getting a good grade. I always try my hardest on articles, I double check facts, and I take initiative.

Education

Foothill Technology High School

Ventura, United States

Aug 2012 - Present

Work History

Foothill Dragon press

Ventura, United States

Aug 2013 - Present

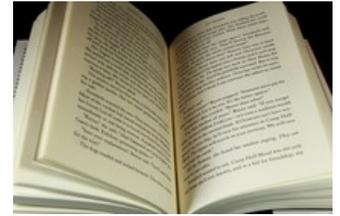
Features writer

Community

- Tutoring two elementary school students at Temple Beth Torah on Thursdays (1 year)
- Buena High School's Junior Varsity swim team (1 year)
- Girl Up (1 year)
- CSF (2 years)

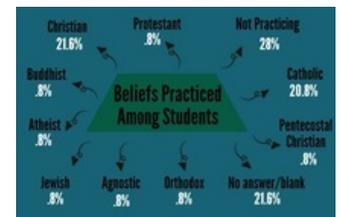
Interests

- Reading
- Discussing plot lines with my friends
- Writing for Features
- Writing for myself
- Tutoring at Temple Beth Torah on Thursdays
- Swimming
- Going to Barnes & Noble on Friday nights
- Sketching
- Taking polaroid films
- Writing poems



[Reading percentage declines in students](#)

This was another article I was really excited about writing because I am a very active reader and I care a lot about books and to see statistics about how students are reading less and less books concerned me. Some students that I interviewed said they simply did not have the time to read because of sports (which is understandable). However, there are some students who just did not find reading fun or enjoyable. That is a big issue to me and I wanted to spread the word about it. Reading is important (obviously to stimulate brain activity) because everyone needs a place to escape to and books are the perfect world to just become someone else for a few chapters.



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